

with the Senate some of the accomplishments and achievements of one of my constituents, Mary “Mickey” Thoman. Mickey will soon—and most deservedly—be inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. It will be another honor for her, a recognition that is fully and richly deserved.

Mickey is well known for her knowledge, experience, and dedication to the agriculture industry of Wyoming, a sector of our economy that is so important it is listed on our State seal. No one knows how much we depend on our farmers and ranchers more than Mickey, and that is why she has been such a strong and effective force in the agriculture community of Wyoming for so many years.

The record shows that Mickey has been tending to her family’s ranching business and keeping everything running as it should for quite some time. In fact, her ranch can now boast of its status as a fifth-generation family ranch. I have no doubt she draws her strength and her energy from the work she does and her heartfelt connection to her ranch and her family. At the wise, experienced, and youthful age of 84, Mickey continues to prove the wisdom of the old adage that the best way to lead is by example.

Mickey’s is a truly remarkable story. It begins with her marriage to her late husband Bill and their decision to begin ranching together in the Green River Valley after they were married in 1948. It is now more than six decades later. Through the years Mickey has seen some tough times and faced some difficult challenges, but she has always been able to handle each obstacle that tried to block her way because of her great love of her life as a rancher.

Mickey is well known throughout the ranching community because of her ties to the industry and to those who farm and ranch for a living. That is why, in an effort to help the next generation of farmers and ranchers, she served as a 4-H leader for many years and helped to found the Green River Valley CattleWomen and Sweetwater County Cowbells. Today, her ranch raises Hereford cattle, Rambouillet sheep, and thoroughbred quarter horses.

Over the years Mickey has passed on her love of ranching and her commitment to the Wyoming values that made her such a success to her children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. As they continue to put the lessons Mickey has taught them into practice they will always remember that Mickey was the one who taught them how to do so many things on the ranch.

When Mickey is inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame she will be in good company. She will be among those who pursued their commitment to serving their community by working to support the growth and strength of our agriculture industry and our state economy. Mickey will fit right in because she has been an out-

standing leader in that regard, serving with agriculture organizations and groups on both the State and the national level. They were fortunate she was willing to serve and to bring her knowledge of the industry to their work so that she might help them to make a difference. Over the years the contribution she made of her time and her talents helped to advance the interests of the agriculture community as she served with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Guardians of the Grasslands, the Wyoming Farm Bureau, the American Quarter Horse Association, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the American Sheep Industry Association, Wyoming CattleWomen, and the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association. Clearly, Mickey has never been one to sit idle when there was work to be done.

Mickey’s upcoming induction into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame won’t be the first time she has been honored for her commitment to ranching, farming, and our Wyoming way of life. She has also been recognized with the Green River Valley Ranch Woman of the Year award in 2012, the Farm Family Today Award from the Sweetwater County Fair in 2013, a Partnership Appreciation Award from the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative in 2012, and, with her husband Bill, the Sweetwater County Ranch of Couple of the Year Award in 1988 and the Upper Green River Valley Cattlemen’s Lifetime Honorary Member Award in 1997.

Mickey Thoman has shown she has what it takes to not only survive but to thrive in what can be a truly demanding business. Through it all, she has been a role model for others to learn from and an example not only of the best of Wyoming’s traditions and values but proof of their power and strength. In a short while, I will be proud to join with Senator BARRASSO as Mickey Thoman is officially inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. It is another honor she has truly earned with her hard work, her leadership, her friendship with so many members of Wyoming’s agricultural community, and her active interest and involvement in every aspect of the industry she has been a part of since she and her husband first began to work their ranch more than 60 years ago.

RECOGNIZING FRANK MOORE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, at the 102nd Wyoming State Fair, I, along with Senator ENZI, will have the honor of introducing Frank Moore as he is inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame for 2014. Frank has spent his lifetime working for positive changes in agriculture, and he has undoubtedly earned this honor through his impact both in Wyoming and nationwide.

Frank Moore’s ancestors came to the Wyoming Territory in 1876 and started

a ranching legacy. A century later in 1978, Frank and his wife Elaine began raising their own cattle and sheep at the Spearhead Ranch north of Douglas, WY. They also started a successful outfitting business which further diversified their ranching operation.

Frank has been iconic in his efforts to promote and build the sheep industry. He is currently serving as chairman of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, an organization he helped establish in 2001. The founders of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative knew that strategic vertical integration of the sheep industry was the only way to save it, and they led the charge in making it happen. Brad Boner, another founder of the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative and Wyoming rancher, observed: “Without Frank’s outstanding leadership and strong passion for Wyoming’s sheep industry, I am not sure we would have been successful in our efforts to form the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative.”

For almost three decades Frank has dedicated a great deal of time and energy by volunteering and serving on boards and committees at both the State and national levels. In addition to serving on the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative board since its inception, Frank has been the president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, served on the board of directors of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Board, and he served in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1993 to 1996. He personally worked to establish the Scrapie Eradication Program, National Wool Act, Guard Dog Program, and many other initiatives that have influenced the sheep industry nationally.

Peter Orwick of the American Sheep Industry has said the industry is in a better place because of Frank’s leadership and willingness to make hard decisions. The undying passion and determination of citizens like Frank and his wife Elaine keep the agriculture industry in both Wyoming and America thriving.

My wife Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Frank and thanking him for his dedication to the Wyoming way of life. I will be honored to share this special day with Frank and his family as he is inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

MUDDYING THE WATERS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a column written by Mr. Dennis Sun, Publisher of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup, entitled “Muddying the Waters.” The article was published on June 21 of this year.

Through this recently proposed Clean Water Act jurisdictional rule, Federal agencies are attempting to expand the definition of “waters of the United States” to include ditches and other dry areas where water flows only for a

short duration after rainfall. Federal regulations have never defined ditches and other upland drainage features as waters of the United States. But this proposed rule does, and it will have a huge impact on farmers, ranchers and small businesses that need to put a shovel in the ground to make a living.

Dennis knows what the true impact of this rule will be to rural communities. He is a fourth-generation rancher from Central, WY. Mr. Sun stated in his column that “according to the EPA, the proposed definition of waters of the U.S. would increase predictability and consistency for CWA programs, and as a lot of folks see it—that’s right—we know we would go out of business instead of just maybe.”

Dennis goes on to say that “our government has run amuck, and we shouldn’t like it. . .” He is right. This proposed rule by the administration is circumventing Congress by effectively writing navigable out of the Clean Water Act, thus allowing the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to seize all wet areas of the States. Just as troubling as ignoring congressional intent, the proposed rule disregards the fundamental tenet embodied in two landmark cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court that there are limits to Federal jurisdiction.

This unprecedented exercise of power will allow Environmental Protection Agency to trump States’ rights and wipe out the authority of State and local governments to make local land and water use decisions. This is particularly troubling when we have seen no evidence that the States are misusing or otherwise failing to meet their responsibilities.

The uncertainty this rule creates only delays economic investment and job creation. It defies logic to think this proposed rule will benefit anybody but bureaucrats in Washington who are far removed from the communities between the coasts.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to stand with ranchers like Dennis Sun. Stand with those who understand the land best and not with extremists outside and within this administration who do not know how to run a farm, a ranch, or a small business.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wyoming Livestock Roundup,
June 21, 2014]

MUDDYING THE WATERS
(By Dennis Sun)

As we all realized on April 21, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers posted their proposed definition for “waters of the U.S.” protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in the Federal Register, and that triggered a 90-day public comment period.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing that current exemptions for the CWA permitting for normal farming, ranching and agricultural practices are kept intact in the proposal.

She added, “If a farmer was not legally required to have a permit before, this rule does

not change that status. The proposal does not add or expand the scope of waters protected under the CWA.”

Well, after those words, the fight was on by those in the farming and ranching industry, along with local governments and the nation’s business community. According to the EPA, the proposed definition of waters of the U.S. would increase predictability and consistency for CWA programs, and as a lot of folks see it—that’s right—we know we would go out of business instead of just “maybe.”

At the same time, 231 U.S. Representatives sent a letter to the EPA and Corp of Engineers asking them to back off this proposed rule to expand federal control under the CWA. They said the proposed rule would redefine waters of the U.S. under the CWA based on a narrow opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy in a 2006 Supreme Court decision that said an isolated water, like a stock pond or a ditch, doesn’t have to have a surface water connection to a downstream navigable water to be considered a “waters of the United States.”

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the plurality opinion on the case, and his opinion differed from Kennedy’s by saying that waters of the U.S. include only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water like streams, rivers and lakes. Justice Scalia specifically noted that waters of the U.S. do not include channels that only hold water periodically and are only wetlands with a continuous surface connection to bodies of water that are waters of the U.S.

The EPA and Corps chose to base the final rule on the Kennedy opinion. That was a concern that the Congressmen raised in their letter, which read, “Contrary to your agencies’ claims this would directly contract prior U.S. Supreme Court decisions which imposed limits on the extent of federal CWA authority. Based on legally and scientifically unsound view of the significant nexus concept espoused by Justice Kennedy, the rule would place features such as ditches, ephemeral drainages, ponds, natural and manmade, seeps, prairie potholes, flood plains and other occasionally or seasonally wet areas under federal control.”

There lies the fight. Congressman Chris Collins (R-N.Y.) said, “Enough is enough with regard to federal overreach on U.S. farms and ranches. When the bureaucrats at the EPA decide to call a divot in the ground that fills with rain a navigable waterway under the CWA, we know that our federal government has run amuck.”

Well, our government has run amuck, and we shouldn’t like it—that is all the reason to get your comments in before the Oct. 20 deadline. This deadline extension gives us a valuable opportunity so take advantage of it. If you’re wondering just how to submit your comments, read more in this week’s Round-up.

MEDICARE’S 49TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, this week Medicare is turning 49 years old. Since July 1965, Medicare has provided critical access to health care benefits for older Americans and people with disabilities. Florida alone is home to over 3.5 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare has become a landmark program based on its popularity among beneficiaries and the comprehensive benefits offered. In 1959, almost 4 out of 10 Americans over age 65 were living below the poverty line, as compared with about 1 in 10 seniors living in poverty in 2000. Prior to Medicare, seniors

paid almost half of the cost of their health; in 1997, seniors paid only 18 percent of their health care costs. Medicare pulled millions of Americans out of poverty by not only providing them with important health benefits, but also by enabling seniors to use their hard-earned retirement savings for needs other than their health care.

As chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I understand that Medicare is essential to the Nation, particularly as the baby boom generation enters retirement. Those served by Medicare often have modest incomes and complex health conditions that depend on these lifesaving benefits. As a committee, we have looked at Medicare’s prescription drug benefit, researched ways to eradicate fraud and waste in the program, and ensured that seniors have access to quality, affordable care. In fact, just yesterday, the committee convened a hearing about how to improve Medicare beneficiaries’ access to skilled nursing care.

The Affordable Care Act has helped to reduce costs, increase benefits, and improve health care delivery for Medicare beneficiaries. Earlier this year, Derrick in Tampa wrote to me about how much the ACA has meant to his family in providing care for his mother. His mother was the victim of gun violence and will need extensive medical care for the rest of her life. So Derrick wrote that when Congress passed the ACA, “I was excited for my mother and the many others” who will benefit from the improvements in providing health care to America’s seniors. For example, thanks to a provision I fought for in the ACA, Floridians have saved more than \$756 million on their prescription drugs.

While we can still make improvements, the Medicare trustees report, released earlier this week, reported that the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund solvency has been extended by 4 additional years from last year’s estimate and 13 years longer than it was prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Today, Medicare is more solvent than it was in 1965.

It is our job, in Congress, to ensure that Medicare is available for all Americans when they need it and, as was the case for Derrick’s mother, when they are impacted by “circumstances not of their own doing.” Though the new projections are encouraging, we must continue to work to preserve Medicare for generations to come.

WAINWRIGHT DEW LINE LAND ACQUISITION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I have introduced legislation to authorize the Federal Government to dispose of a piece of property on Alaska’s North Slope that it no longer needs or wants but is of great importance to the Inupiat residents of the North Slope.

Specifically, I am introducing a companion bill to legislation that has also